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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/022,992	12/17/2001	Yasushi Kurakake	393032029200	4246

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EXAMINER

VU, THONG H

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2142

DATE MAILED: 10/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/022,992

Applicant(s)

KURAKAKE ET AL.

Examiner

Thong H. Vu

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 September 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5,7-9 and 11-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5,7-9,11-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

1. Claims 1,5,7-9,11-20 are pending. Claims 6,10 are cancelled.
2. This application claims priority of 12/18/2000.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments, see page 9, filed 9/22/06, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-5,7-9,11-20 under Snyder-Dillon have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Snyder-Doi.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-5,7-9,11-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Snyder [6,643,641 B1] in view of Doi et al et al [Doi 6,247,010 B1]

4. As per claim 1, Snyder discloses A method of searching for contents information presented by a plurality of information sites over a network based on a query sent from a client terminal to a searching server through the network, the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

prompting the client terminal to input a query [Snyder, col 16 lines 37-50;col 22 lines 10-21;col 24 lines 21-35]

enabling the client terminal to transmit the query to the searching server through the network [Snyder, col 10 lines 39-59],

operating the searching server according to the query to search for one (or more) of the information sites having contents information matching the query [Snyder, col 3 lines 50-col 4 line 2], and to send back directory information indicative of locations of the searched information sites to the client terminal [Snyder, col 10 lines 39-59];

operating the client terminal according to the directory information for accessing the searched information sites [Snyder, col 25 line 58-col 26 line 10]; and

Snyder also taught the criteria performed by two agents and provide the result to the user. However Snyder does not detail

“the query containing an item keyword indicating an item as a target of searching and an action keyword indicating an action to be made on the item;” and

“registering directory information of a new information site in the searching server together with an item keyword and an action keyword matching the contents information presented by the new information site in response to a request for registration of the new information site form a client terminal.”

In the same endeavor, Doi discloses a searching a database for information in record including the action keywords such as verb, noun [Doi, search database with keyword as noun or verb, col 7 lines 17-60]

Therefore it would have been obvious to an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the technique of searching keywords such as noun and verb as taught by Doi into the Snyder's apparatus in order to utilize the two agents

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searching. Doing so would improve the processing time for network searching and provide the efficient results to the user [Snyder, col 4 lines 52-59].

5. As per claim 3, Snyder-Doi disclose the prompting section provides a list of various item keywords and action keywords with the client terminal such that the user can select a set of an item keyword and an action keyword from the list to formulate the query [Doi, search database with keyword as noun or verb, col 7 lines 17-60].

6. As per claim 4, Snyder-Doi disclose a database that stores the directory information of the information sites spread over the network together with the item keywords and the action keywords matching the contents information presented by the respective information sites [Doi, search database with keyword as noun or verb, col 7 lines 17-60].

7. As per claim 5, Snyder-Doi disclose the operating section can search for one (or more) information sites with reference to the database according to the query [Doi, search database with keyword as noun or verb, col 7 lines 17-60].

8. As per claim 7, Snyder-Doi disclose the registering section responds to the request for registration of the new information site from the client terminal, for providing a list of various item keywords and action keywords with the client terminal such that the user can select a set of an item keyword and an action keyword from the list in matching

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with the contents information presented by the new information site [Snyder, a new web site, col 24 lines 9-20].

9. As per claim 16, Snyder-Doi disclose the registering section registers information indicating another action corresponding to the action indicated by the registered action keyword or verb query [Doi, search database with keyword as noun or verb, col 7 lines 17-60].

10. Claims 8,9,11-15,17-20 contain the similar limitations set forth in claims 1-5,7 and 16. Therefore claims 8,9,11-15,17-20 are rejected for the same rationale set forth in claims 1-5,7 and 16.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-5,7-9,11-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zilberstein et al [Zilberstein, 6,606,657 B1] in view of Denber [Denber, 6,233,547 B1]

11. As per claim 1, Zilberstein discloses A method of searching for contents information presented by a plurality of information sites over a network based on a

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query sent from a client terminal to a searching server through the network, the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

prompting the client terminal to input a query [Zilberstein, prompt the user to input, col 11 lines 11-35]

enabling the client terminal to transmit the query to the searching server through the network [Zilberstein, central server, col 6 lines 8-13],

operating the searching server according to the query to search for one (or more) of the information sites having contents information matching the query [Zilberstein, query result, col 8 lines 1-8], and to send back directory information indicative of locations of the searched information sites to the client terminal [Zilberstein, directory or catalog, col 4 lines 51-67; re-activated or new URL, col 8 lines 31-48];

operating the client terminal according to the directory information for accessing the searched information sites [Zilberstein, searches the directory for pages meeting the query profile, col 14 lines 34-53]; and

However Zilberstein does not detail

“the query containing an item keyword indicating an item as a target of searching and an action keyword indicating an action to be made on the item;” and

“registering directory information of a new information site in the searching server together with an item keyword and an action keyword matching the contents information presented by the new information site in response to a request for registration of the new information site form a client terminal.”

In the same endeavor, Denber discloses a searching a database for information

in record including the action keywords such as verb, noun phrase, etc [Denber, search database for a noun or verb, col 4 lines 2,12-15]

Therefore it would have been obvious to an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the technique of searching keywords such as noun and verb as taught by Denber into the Zilberstein's apparatus in order to utilize the two agents searching. Doing so would improve the processing time for network searching and provide the efficient results to the user.

12. As per claim 3, Zilberstein- Denber disclose the prompting section provides a list of various item keywords and action keywords with the client terminal such that the user can select a set of an item keyword and an action keyword from the list to formulate the query [Denber, search database for a noun or verb, col 4 lines 2,12-15].

13. As per claim 4, Zilberstein-Denber disclose a database that stores the directory information of the information sites spread over the network together with the item keywords and the action keywords matching the contents information presented by the respective information sites [Denber, search database for a noun or verb, col 4 lines 2,12-15].

14. As per claim 5, Zilberstein-Denber disclose the operating section can search for one (or more) information sites with reference to the database according to the query

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[Denber, search database for a noun or verb, col 4 lines 2,12-15].

15. As per claim 7, Zilberstein-Doi disclose the registering section responds to the request for registration of the new information site from the client terminal, for providing a list of various item keywords and action keywords with the client terminal such that the user can select a set of an item keyword and an action keyword from the list in matching with the contents information presented by the new information site [Zilberstein, a new web site, col 4 lines 51-67].

16. As per claim 16, Zilberstein-Denber disclose the registering section registers information indicating another action corresponding to the action indicated by the registered action keyword or verb query [Denber, search database for a noun or verb, col 4 lines 2,12-15].

17. Claims 8,9,11-15,17-20 contain the similar limitations set forth in claims 1-5,7 and 16. Therefore claims 8,9,11-15,17-20 are rejected for the same rationale set forth in claims 1-5,7 and 16.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thong H. Vu whose telephone number is 571-272-3904. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:00-3:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Caldwell can be reached on 571-272-3868. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Thong Vu
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